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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Fire Marshal Issues Carbon Monoxide Warning

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan issued a carbon monoxide warning for people who experience a power outage from this storm. "This slow-moving storm most likely will cause extensive power outages," said Coan. "It is important to take steps to stay safe and prevent fires and carbon monoxide poisoning," he added.

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

"Carbon monoxide poisoning is a great risk at times like these. During the extended power outages after last year's Halloween storm, the number of carbon monoxide incidents that fire departments responded to spiked," said Coan. "Don't use your oven for heat and don't bring a charcoal or gas grill inside to cook; doing so can cause carbon monoxide poisoning," he said. Generators are a common source of carbon monoxide poisoning during extended power outages. Coan warned, "Use generators outdoors only. Using generators or gas or charcoal grills inside the garage – even with the door open – poses a serious risk of CO poisoning."

Make Sure Smoke Alarms and CO Alarms are Working

One of the simplest safety steps you can take is to make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. "Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have fresh batteries."

For more information on storm safety go to www.mass.gov/dfs and click on "Hurricane Safety". The U.S. Fire Administration has tips on using generators safely at: www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/co/generator.shtm.